

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 PRS-01 CIAE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 MC-02 AID-05 ACDA-07 IO-13
SSO-00 ARAE-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 /072 W
-----081554Z 073465 /43
O 081523Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3595

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, MASS, PINS, ES
SUBJECT: MILITARY EQUIPMENT USED IN QUELLING DISORDERS

REF: WALKER-HICKS TELECON MARCH 6

1. THE FOLLOWING IS THE EMBASSY'S BEST GUESS DESCRIPTION OF THE EQUIPMENT USED TO CLEAR THE PLAZA LIBERTAD AND QUELL CIVIL DISTURBANCES ON FEBRUARY 28. THE INFORMATION CANNOT BE MORE EXACT BECAUSE THE MIX OF THE SECURITY FORCES (ARMY, NATIONAL POLICE, AND NATIONAL GUARD) AND THE TYPES OF ARMS AND OTHER PARAPHERNALIA EMPLOYED IS NOT KNOWN WITH PRECISION.

2. (A) ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS - THE EMBASSY HAS HEARD STORIES OF UP TO AIZOZEN APC'S. THE SALVADORAN ARMED FORCE HAS GERMAN (MERCEDES) APC'S. NONE WERE ACQUIRED FROM THE US.

(B) TRUCKS - OVER THE YEARS THE GOES HAS ACQUIRED A GOOD NUMBER OF TRUCKS OF VARIOUS SIZES (FROM ONE QUARTER TO TWO TON) THROUGH THE MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. WE CAN ASSUME THAT IF THE SECURITY SERVICES TRANSPORTED ITS TROOPS IN TRUCKS, A PORTION OF THEM WERE OF US ORIGIN AND ACQUIRED THROUGH MAP.

(C) WEAPONS - THE ARMY'S BASIC RIFLE IS THE GERMAN "G-3".
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ITS STANDARD SIDEARM IS BELGIAN. THE POLICE AND NATIONAL GUARD CARRY A VARIETY OF RIFLES, MOST RPT MOST OF WHICH ARE OF EUROPEAN MANUFACTURE (GERMAN, SWEDISH AND BELGIAN). GOES FORCES HAVE NO M-16S. THEY DO HAVE A VARIETY OF OLDER US WEAPONS, INCLUDING CARBINES, ACQUIRED YEARS AGO. IT IS POSSIBLE, THOUGH UNLIKELY, THAT A FEW OF THESE WERE USED ON FEBRUARY 28. WE ASSUME THE MAJORITY, PERHAPS ALL, OF THE FORCES WERE CARRYING THEIR

STANDARD ISSUE WEAPONS, WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN OF NON-US ORIGIN.

(D) TEAR GAS - THE GOES FORCES USED TEAR GAS TO CLEAR THE PLAZA. THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE AND SECURITY BUYS ITS TEAR GAS FROM COMMERCIAL SUPPLIERS. LAST DECEMBER THE GOES PURCHASED 400 DOLLARS WORTH OF TEAR GAS FROM A US SUPPLIER, SMITH AND WESSON.

(E) COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT - THE GOES HAS ACQUIRED A GOOD DEAL OF ITS MILITARY (AND CIVILIAN) RADIO COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT THROUGH THE MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. IF WE ASSUME THAT THE TROOPS IN THE PLAZA AND THE NEXT DAY COMMUNICATED BY RADIO, IT IS HIGHLY LIKELY THAT MAP EQUIPMENT WAS RPT WAS USED.

(F) WATER EQUIPMENT - WATER HOSES REPORTEDLY WERE USED IN THE CLEARING OF THE PLAZA LIBERTAD. THE GOVERNMENT CLAIMS THAT IT USED ITS FIRE TRUCK HOSES. SINCE THE EMBASSY KNOWS OF NO SPECIAL CROWD CONTROL WATER EQUIPMENT IN GOES POSSESSION, IT BELIEVES THE GOVERNMENT'S CLAIM.
LUBENSKY

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 08-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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